

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 DODE-00 NRC-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00

COME-00 ISO-00 MC-02 SSO-00 EUR-12 ACDA-10 /046 W

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FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2795

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 0074

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, BE, GW, SZ

SUBJECT: EXCON COMPUTER TAPE FOR GEPACO SA, GENEVA (OEA/CD
INVESTIGATIVE CASE 11/75/24)

REF: ANTWERP 39

1. BEGIN SUMMARY:

THROUGH ALERTNESS OF GERMAN CUSTOMS 10,000 CARTONS OF
COMPUTER TAPES ARE NOW BEING HELD IN WAREHOUSE IN
DUESSELDORF UNDER EXPORT PROHIBITION. GERMAN CUSTOMS
WOULD APPRECIATE ADVISE AS TO FURTHER DISPOSTION OF TAPES.
END SUMMARY.

2. CONGEN CALLED HERR KORIOTH FROM DUISBURG LAW FIRM OF
KIWITZ, KORIOTH AND NEUMANN ON JANUARY 19. KORIOTH
CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD SENT A TELEX TO NATURAL NV
IN ANTWERP THREATENING LEGAL ACTION TO OBTAIN THE
RELEASE OF THE COMPUTER TAPES ON BEHALF OF THE FIRM
GEPACO SA, PLACE LONGEMALLE 19, 1204 GENEVA, SWITZER-
LAND. KORIOTH STATED THAT MR. SCHEPPI OF GEPACO HAD
BEEN IN DUISBURG ON JANUARY 14 AND HAD ASKED THE
LAW FIRM TO TAKE THIS ACTION. KORIOTH DECLINED TO
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GIVE FURTHER INFORMATION WITHOUT HIS CLIENT'S CONSENT.

3. CONGEN DUESSELDORF ASCERTAINED FROM CONGEN ANTWERP THAT NATURAL HAD HANDED TAPES OVER TO GERMAN TRANSPORT FIRM WETRAM ON JANUARY 15 FOR DELIVERY TO THE FIRM W.A. KEUNE & CO. IN METTMANN, A SUBURB OF DUESSELDORF. A SPOKESMAN FOR KEUNE (A CUTLERY MANUFACTURING FIRM), HOWEVER, DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTER TAPES, GEPACO OR NATURAL. HERR WEGNER OF WETRAM INFORMED CONGEN THAT HE HAD DELIVERED THE TAPES TO THE TRANSPORT FIRM SPEDIMEX, AM HOCHOFEN 107, DUESSELDORF AT THE REQUEST OF HERR KEUNE.

4. HERR SCHEPERS OF SPEDIMEX STATED THAT THE TAPES WERE BEING HELD IN HIS WAREHOUSE UNTIL HE COULD FIND A CUSTOMER FOR THEM IN GERMANY. HE SAID THAT GEPACO HAD GIVEN UP ITS INTEREST IN THE TAPES. HE INFORMED CONGEN THAT THE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT OF THE DUSSELDORF CUSTOMS OFFICE HAD IMPOSED AN EXPORT PROHIBITION ON THE TAPES.

5. HERR JANSEN OF DUSSELDORF CUSTOMS OFFICE SAID THAT HE HAD SENSED THAT SOMETHING WAS FUNNY WHEN THE FIRM KEUNE REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE SHIPMENT OF TAPES AND HAD ORDERED A TEMPORARY EXPORT PROHIBITION PENDING INVESTIGATION. HE SAID GEPACO HAD GIVEN TITLE FOR TAPES TO SPEDIMEX, WHICH WAS PLANNING TO SELL TAPES IN GERMANY. GERMAN CUSTOMS AT PRESENT HAVE NO LEGAL GROUNDS TO STOP SALE HERE BUT FEAR THAT TAPES MIGHT LATER BE DIVERTED DESPITE REQUIREMENT FOR EXPORT AUTHORIZATION IN SUCH A CASE. JANSEN SAID HE COULD DELAY RELEASING TAPES UNTIL JAN 26 BUT WOULD HAVE TO PERMIT THEIR SALE THEN UNLESS WE COULD GIVE HIM ADEQUATE GROUNDS TO STOP SALE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: CONGEN WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHAT IT SHOULD TELL GERMAN CUSTOMS.DUX

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